

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 SS-15 SSO-00 CPR-01 A-01  
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /043 W  
-----046034 171359Z /50

O 171333Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0545  
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS MOSCOW 07930

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

STATE EOR PA, EUR/SOV

USICA FOR EU, VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), UR  
SUBJECT: SECVISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 96602, (B) STATE 96372

1. EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE MET MORNING OF APRIL 17 WITH  
MFA PRESS DEPT. COUNSELOR STREL'NIKOV AND SECOND SECRETARY  
SIZOV TO DISCUSS SEVERAL MATTERS RELATING TO PRESS  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. FOLLOWING  
ARE TOPICS IN ORDER RAISED.

2. VISAS: SOVIETS ASSURED THAT VISAS FOR NEWSMEN COMING IN  
FROM LONDON, WEST BERLIN AND BANGKOK WILL BE AUTHORIZED  
AT LATEST BY COB APRIL 17. SIZOV SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY  
GET ON PHONE TO MFA CONSULAR AUTHORITIES TO MAKE SURE THIS  
WAS DONE. "I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEMS HERE," HE ADDED.  
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3. ACCESS: PRESS ATTACHE RAISED ISSUE OF ACCESS FOR PRESS  
TO INITIAL MOMENTS OF NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, NOTING  
INADEQUATE SOVIET POOL ARRANGEMENTS LAST YEAR. DESIRED  
SOLUTION, SAID ATTACHE, WOULD BE FOR SOVIETS TO ADMIT ONE  
REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, OR  
WIRE SERVICE, PLUS STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CAMERA

CREW. THIS WOULD TOTAL 25-30 INDIVIDUALS. STREL'NIKOV, AFTER DELIVERING HIMSELF OF HOMILY CONCERNING SOVIET INTEREST IN ACCOMMODATING U.S. PRESS, IN EFFECT SAID POOL STIUTATION WOULD BE MUCH THE SAME THIS YEAR. HE CITED SIZE OF MEETING ROOM IN KREMLIN, SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, AND "OTHER FACTORS" AS MAKING LARGE GROUPS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. HE SAID MFA PRESS WOULD DO ITS BEST TO MAXIMIZE SIZE OF POOLS BECAUSE "I KNOW THESE CORRESPONDENTS DIDN'T COME THOUSANDS OF MILES JUST TO SNIFF THE SPRING AIR OF MOSCOW." BUT REALISTICALLY, TRAVELLING PRESS SHOULD BE FOREWARNED THAT ACCESS PROBLEMS WILL REOCCUR AGAIN THIS YEAR. ANY : ADVANCE THOUGHT THEY CAN GIVE TO POOL ARRANGEMENTS, E.G. IF NETWORKS CAN AGREE ON POOL FILM CREW, WILL BE INVALUABLE ONCE THEY TOUCH GROUND IN MOSCOW.

4. WILLEN'S VISA: WHEN PRESS ATTACHE INQUIRED ABOUT ACCREDITATION AND STATUS OF WILLEN (REFTEL A), SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT LATTER WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS NORMAL JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES, BOTH SOVIET INTERLOCUTORS SUPPRESSED SMILES AND ALLOWED AS TO HOW THEY WERE AWARE OF WILLEN'S CASE. STREL'NIKOV SAID THAT WILLEN WOULD HAVE FULL FREEDOM TO COVER "UNCONDITIONALLY" ALL ASPECTS OF VISIT AS WOULD ANY OTHER NEWSMAN. HE SAID THAT WILLEN VISA WAS NOT ISSUED "AS A MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION." THAT, HE POINTED OUT, IS UP TO THE AMERICAN SIDE TO DETERMINE. RATHER, STREL'NIKOV NOTED, VISA WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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AS "EMPLOYEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY". "WE ARE AWARE," HE CONTINUED, "THAT THIS AGENCY ENCOMPASSES SEVERAL JOURNALISTIC ELEMENTS" AND THAT THEREFORE WILLEN'S VISA STATUS "DOES NOT PRECLUDE HIS JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY" BUT THAT IN EXERCISING THAT ACTIVITY WILLEN WOULD BE CLEARLY DESIGNATED AS "AN OFFICIAL OF THE I.C.A." SOVIETS THEREFORE SEEM PERFECTLY WILLING TO LET VOA CORRESPONDENT GO ABOUT HIS BUSINESS, HAVING ESTABLISHED TO THEIR SATISFACTION THAT HE IS A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

5. RECEPTION: STREL'NIKOV SAID MFA PRESS DEPT. WOULD PROBABLY HOST RECEPTION FOR U.S. PRESS AS IT DID LAST YEAR. PRESS ATTACHE MENTIONED POSSIBLE EVENT IN SECRETARY'S HONOR TO BE ARRANGED BY RESIDENT U.S. NEWSMEN, AND EXPRESSED WISH THAT BOTH SIDES COORDINATE CLOSELY TO AVOID SCHEDULE CONFLICT. IF POSSIBLE, WOULD APPRECIATE SOME, ALBEIT PRELIMINARY, WORD BY IMMEDIATE CABLE RE PREFERRED DATE FOR EVENT DESCRIBED REF B. TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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